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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

MR. REED has accomplished the organization of the House Committees all the more quickly because he had a policy to carry out. The plan that Congress shall do nothing to restore silver, and as little as possible to amend the tariff, evidently exercised a controlling influence in his selections. His ultimate purpose in both is to advance his own prospects as a candidate for the Presidency by securing the support of the commercial centers, which always lay upon Congressional discussion the responsibility for any current depression of business. It is with the same end in view that each of the Maine Representatives, as persons in his own following, have been given chairmanships of com-

mittees, Mr. Dingley receiving that of Ways and Means, the most important in the Speaker's gift. The Committees on Banking and Currency and on Coinage also have been organized in the interests of the policy of inaction. The Chairman of the former is Mr. Walker, of Massachusetts, who at the opening of the session offered a bill to retire the greenbacks. That of the latter is Mr. Stone, of our own State, who signalized his zeal as an enemy of silver in the last Congress. So far, therefore, as Mr. Reed could effect this, the House is committed to the views of the Wall street magnates, and is placed in as complete harmony with the views of Mr. Cleveland as it is possible for a Republican House to be. It is left for the Senate to represent the Republican doctrine of bimetallism, unless, indeed, the House should show the Speaker that it is more in harmony with the public opinion of the country than are he and his supporters.

This action also leaves no doubt as to where Mr. Reed stands on the monetary issues. He formerly showed a disposition to hedge as regards silver. The enemies of that metal, however, must have satisfied him that it would not do for him to "face East by West" any longer, and that the price of their support must be paid out of his use of his power as Speaker. This leaves the friends of silver in all parts of the country no choice but to antagonize the Speaker's candidacy, and to seek elsewhere a man who is loyal to the pledges of the Republican party.

AS WAS expected, Mr. Cleveland has followed up his message and Mr. Carlisle's report with a special message urging the relief of the Treasury in the matter of maintaining the gold reserve, or of dispensing with it altogether by retiring the greenbacks. In the Senate, as might have been expected, this message was very coldly received. The leaders of the House, under the Reed administration of its affairs, evidently find themselves embarrassed by their relations to the gold-standard party, and obliged to do something to meet the President's demands. What to do is not easy to see, as they are met by a double veto—that of the Senate as well as of the President, if they attempt to carry out their own convictions. They do not suppose that the President will consent to such a general revision of the tariff as will put the revenue upon a satisfactory footing and check the outflow of gold. They do not suppose that the Senate will give its assent to the issue of more bonds for borrowing gold while nothing is done for silver. And they know that neither House nor Senate will agree to have the Treasury notes cancelled as fast as they are redeemed in gold.

In this dilemma they seem to have resolved to "go through the motions" of legislating for the relief of the Treasury, and to leave the responsibility with the Senate and the President. The bills they propose, authorize Mr. Carlisle to carry out substantially what he proposed in the matter of issuing bonds at a low rate and for short periods, and also of certificates of indebtedness to pay current expenses. And to this they mean to add a tariff bill, placing wool under a specific duty equal to sixty per cent. of the McKinley rates and raising all the present duties "horizontally."

SUCH an inconsistent make-shift is hardly worth discussing, as its chances of becoming a law are scarcely enough. The Senate cannot pass it with any consistency. The President would turn his back on everything he has said of the tariff before he signed it. Nor would it be worth passing, except for the slight relief it would give to our wool-growers, if even for that. It would concede to the President that the Republicans are wrong in tracing the troubles of the Treasury to excessive imports by trying to remedy the present difficulty without a recast of the tariff. Its slight rise in duties would be of no lasting avail, as the steady depression in nominal prices through the constant appreciation of gold, would soon bring the revenue as low as before, and for the same reason would relieve importations of the check the bill has in view. Far better convert the duties of the present tariff into specific duties at the rate of the *ad valorem* duties based on prices in existence when the bill was passed.

As for fresh bonds to borrow gold, that is an endless process, and one to which no bimetallist can assent. The Treasury has plenty of "lawful money of the United States" to redeem the Treasury notes. It is in such money that their redemption is promised. Let it use that money, and we shall hear no more of the dwindling of the gold reserve.

ON motion of Senator Allen, of Nebraska, the Senate has instructed its Finance Committee to consider the propriety of throwing open the mints to the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of one to sixteen, the issue of "an adequate volume" of legal tender notes, and the retirement of bank notes. This refers the whole Populist platform on money to the committee, with instructions to report. It will bring all three propositions before the Senate for debate, and possibly it will force the House to take up these propositions in spite of the policy of inaction organized by Mr. Candidate Reed.

As to the substitution of Treasury for bank paper, Mr. Allen speaks for a large section of our people, who know banks only as aristocratic institutions for the benefit of traders and manufacturers in the older and the richer sections of the country. Such, indeed, our banks have been in the main, and especially so under the severe restrictions of the present national banking law. The experience of other countries, especially of Scotland and Germany, shows that banks may be made thoroughly popular in both management and services, and adapted to the needs of just such a community as Nebraska to-day is. It is to the improvement and extension of our banking system, until it shall meet the needs of all industrial classes, and all sections of the country, and not to the abolition of banks, that our Populist friends should address themselves. They would find it quite possible to create for the farming and planting States a system of banks which would do for them all they propose to have done by "agricultural sub-treasuries."

THE message of the President with regard to Venezuela, while it has been received with a very general unanimity of support, has not failed to divide public opinion to some extent. The class which utterly distrusts Mr. Cleveland, and that which regards peace as too precious to be sacrificed for any end, have expressed dissent in terms which command respect, if not agreement. These are reinforced by many whose sole test of any policy is its effect on business, and who see in the fall of stocks in both Europe and America, valid reasons for throwing over the Monroe Doctrine or anything else which may make buying and selling less profitable. We did not, however, expect to see these classes reinforced by a large section of the Free Trade mugwumps, who have been Mr. Cleveland's warm and especial admirers. That the *Evening Post* should turn upon him, indeed, was not surprising. The *Post* is so little inclined to admire anything but its own wisdom, that its praise of any man must be regarded as a temporary aberration

from its natural line of abuse and depreciation. It sees in the message nothing but an attempt to promote the President's chances of re-election, and wonders that the Republicans are so obtuse as to give him credit for any higher motive. The only importance of this opinion is that it is sure to be telegraphed to Europe, and most probably by its author, as showing how well justified the English are in treating the whole proceeding as a manœuvre in party politics. That, indeed, is what Mr. E. L. Godkin has been teaching the English to see in anything that happens in our public life which is not acceptable to them. So he characterized the dismissal of Mr. Sackville-West in 1888, and so he treats the natural and just resentment aroused by Mr. Bayard's Edinburgh speech of this year.

That Mr. Godkin has a following among the mugwumps and Free Traders was shown at the banquet of the Free Trade League in Boston last Friday. Both Mr. Henry W. Lamb, who presided, and Mr. William Lloyd Garrison, eulogized Mr. Bayard, and defended his speech. The latter offered resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, with enthusiastic applause, by the hundred members who were present, to the effect that the League should reprint and circulate the speech. The proceeding is important only as furnishing fresh evidence of the tendency of Free Trade opinions to destroy national self-respect in those who adopt them.

"Cobden & Co. have got the knack
Of hauling down the Union Jack,"

Punch said in 1857. "If an empire were made of granite, their opinions would grind it to powder," Napoleon I said of the Free Trade party of his day. In America, Mr. Edward Atkinson is the only prominent man who has accomplished the feat of combining heartily patriotic instincts with Free Trade opinions. He alone uttered his protest when the Cobden Club began the circulation of pamphlets among the western farmers to induce them to vote down Protection.

It is well that the League has given the American people this object-lesson on the subject. Copies of that speech with the imprint of the Free Trade League, will be in demand.

THAT Mr. Cleveland would commit the country to war by pressing the Monroe Doctrine in this Venezuela business, is an assumption without foundation. We have many means of coercing Great Britain without fighting her, and they are such as she never would encounter for the sake of a slice of South American territory. One of these would be the exclusion of her products, and those of her colonies, from our ports. When we were a handful of disunited colonies, a non-importation agreement compelled her to repeal her laws to tax the Americans. The renewal of this policy in 1811 failed because it was applied practically to the whole of Europe, and not to England alone, so that her rivals got no chance to displace her. To-day her overgrown system of manufactures would topple to its fall if we refused to allow their products to enter our markets. Hence the eagerness of her commercial classes to commit us to a policy of arbitration, which would have enabled her to take us before an international tribunal without having recourse to pressure of this kind.

THE present situation fully justifies the opposition offered to the arbitration plan in other respects. It shows that England has not the smallest intention of submitting to arbitration her disputes with the weaker powers she loves to bully. And it also shows how little we could depend on the diplomats of continental Europe to furnish the materials for an impartial tribunal. The moment it was seen that we had come to a serious disagreement and before the continental editors had time to master the merits of the question, they rushed to the support of English claims just because England is European and we are not. The official organs, especially of Germany, were the foremost in offensiveness, and from every quarter we heard the echo of Lord Salisbury's contention that the Monroe Doctrine amounts to nothing in modern diplo-

macy. Even the French took up this line of talk, forgetful of the fact that a French army was withdrawn from Mexico with considerable haste as soon as peace at home left us free to enforce the Monroe Doctrine.

The fairest statement of our side of the case that has been made abroad comes from two English weeklies, *The Tablet* (Roman Catholic), and *The Shipping Gazette*. The former reminds Englishmen of the recent attitude and policy of the European Powers in dealing with weaker peoples in Africa and elsewhere, and justifies us in regarding with apprehension any attempt to extend such methods to the new world. The latter points out the gross injustice to which Venezuela has been subjected by progressive demands upon her territory, declaring that the President of that republic, when he lies down at night does not know over how much of it he will be the ruler when he awakens. Both might have pointed their statements by reference to the murderous and infamous theft of Swaziland, the seizure of the country of the Chitralis, the annexation of Northern Burmah and the execution as pirates (dacoits) of those who offered resistance to this great theft.

THE great strike in Philadelphia continued into a second week. On a few of the central roads a part of the cars were run under police protection; but throughout the city at large, all ordinary means for the transportation of the public were in abeyance, and this throughout a city whose corners in the built-up section lie eight or ten miles from the centre. The street car companies hold their charters on the condition that they shall render the services of the common carrier, and during this time they rendered no such services. Nor did there seem to be any power in existence which could compel them even to take steps toward fulfilling their legal engagements. At last, chiefly through the good offices of Mr. George Griffiths, President of the Christian League, a compromise was reached on terms which were possible from the very first, and would have been reached if President J. Lowber Welsh had not allowed what he considered the etiquette of procedure to come in the way of public interest.

Of course this and similar strikes will be alleged as proof that private corporations cannot be trusted to manage a system of street railways, and that Philadelphia should follow the example of Glasgow in taking over the lines at a reasonable valuation. It is well, however, to remember that Glasgow has incurred a loss by that transaction, and that cities as well as corporations are liable to have strikes. It is not outside the reach of living memory that the city proper was left in darkness by a strike at the Gas Works, of which it was then the chief and now is the sole owner.

THE disclosures of the misconduct of the Philadelphia police, which have been made before the Senate's Committee of Investigation, are very grave in their nature, though not such as to show that we have sunk to the New York level by any means. It is in evidence that members of the police have levied blackmail and extended "protection" for pay, to keepers of disorderly houses; but how extensive the evil has been, and how far any of their superiors had a guilty cognizance of the offense, we cannot tell yet. It is worth while to inquire whether the state of the law which deals with "the social evil" in this and other cities, is not such as to make the statute useful only as an instrument of blackmail. It is never wise to deal with vice as with crime, while it is right and proper to suppress incitements to vice of every kind. Long experience has shown that our laws do not suppress the unhappy class who live by sexual vice, but only make them the prey of any unscrupulous person who is clothed with authority, however small. The evil is not beyond the power of cure; but it will be by the pressure of personal influence and not that of the law that we shall be able to accomplish any good for them.

THE *Spectator*, which is more notable for the subtlety than for the cogency of its reasonings on current events, speaks of our government's declarations about Venezuela as "the death blow to the hopes" of the Armenian nation. We did not observe that England was so efficiently busy on behalf of Armenia as to make the diversion of her attention to Venezuela a very grave matter. Months have elapsed since Lord Salisbury announced his purpose to put an end to the Turkish atrocities and they have been filled up with villainies more atrocious and massacres more wholesale than those which had stirred his anger. When is the end to come? The first sign of good is the successful resistance to the Turks by the Armenians of Zeitoun. It was *The Spectator* which remarked some weeks ago that little could be done for this suffering people until they took the sword in their own behalf. With that we have not interfered.

What blocks the way to the effective repression of the Turkish measures of extermination? Simply the same greed of territory, which America has rebuked in the uprising about Venezuela. It is because each of the Powers wishes to be heir to the Turk, that they stand in each other's way, and will allow no action by any. A hearty respect for the rights of neutrality, whether Armenian or Venezuelan, would clear the atmosphere of modern diplomacy, and simplify complex questions. Our government alone, of all the world, comes forward to defend a weaker nation against aggression, with no hope or wish of territorial extension. It is the application of that principle in Armenia, which would solve all difficulties in an instant.

NO INTERMEDDLING WITH CIS-ATLANTIC AFFAIRS.

BY those who in their sordid pursuit of wealth have become oblivious to the distress and sufferings of their fellow men (whom they regard not as brothers and equals, but as mere unfeeling instruments to be made use of in the accumulation of wealth), whose sense of justness and patriotism has been dulled by a worship of Mammon, and who are accustomed to weigh everything with regard to the possible effect on their pocket-books, the patriotic stand of the President on the Venezuelan question has been unreservedly condemned. But aside from the members of this desppicable class, who are fortunately few and non-existent outside of New York and Boston, the position taken by the President has met with hearty and universal approval and response. Americans of all parties have cast aside politics, and without halting or hesitation, have with one accord united to uphold the President.

That those few non-Americans who put profit before patriotism should by their control of some of the great daily newspapers be able to misrepresent the patriotic accord of the American people, and thus, perhaps, induce Lord Salisbury to take an uncompromising and domineering stand in the belief that the American people were not a unit but divided, such as he would not otherwise dare to take, is unfortunate. The declarations of some journals of this class in New York and Boston that the Monroe doctrine is not applicable to the Venezuelan boundary dispute are puerile.

In making the vigorous declarations incorporated in his message to Congress December 2, 1823, President Monroe had in view the deterrence of what seemed to be the undoubted purpose of the parties to the Holy Alliance, France, Austria, Prussia and Russia, and in whose interests and behalf French troops had just invaded Spain, overthrown the constitutional government of the Cortes and restored absolutism in the person of Ferdinand VII to lend their aid to that monarch in restoring his dominion over the revolted colonies of Spain, which had at that time achieved their virtual independence, the Spanish monarchy being obviously unable to cope single handed with the revolt. Mr. Monroe framed his declaration to fit this special case. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, to whom the message was submitted by President Mon-

roe before transmission to Congress: "Our first maxim should be never to entangle ourselves in the broils of Europe, our second never to suffer Europe to intermeddle in Cis-Atlantic affairs." It was avowedly on this broad principle that Mr. Monroe based his declarations, and it was this principle that he applied to the threatened interference of foreign powers in the struggle between Spain and her colonies and incorporated in his message.

No foreign intermeddling in Cis-Atlantic affairs. This is the true meaning of the Monroe doctrine, what it was understood to mean at the time, and this is what Mr. Cleveland has declared it to mean, applying the principle to the dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela.

"We should oppose with all our means the forcible interposition (in the struggle between Spain and the revolted colonies) of any other power as auxiliary, stipendiary, or under any other form or pretext, and most especially their transfer to any power by conquest, cession or acquisition in any other way." These are the words of Thomas Jefferson in commenting on the declarations in the message of President Monroe in 1823. They bear the same import as Mr. Cleveland's words in 1895.

The United States is the natural guardian of the republics of America. As the leader of republics she is the natural protector of her weaker sisters, and it is her duty to see that justice is done to her weaker neighbors in the South by foreign powers in their dealings with such republics. The position of natural arbitrator in the material disputes between the Powers of the Old World and the Republics of the New, assumed by Mr. Cleveland, meets with the cordial approval of men of all parties in the United States, and is received with enthusiasm by the people of the Southern republics.

With the republics to the south of us we should cultivate closer and reciprocal trade relations, for trade between countries lying in different latitudes and producing different products, must be mutually advantageous, and the encouragement of the direct interchange of products between the United States and the republics of South and Central America is the first step to that community of interests and unity of feeling and action that is the necessary forerunner of an American State System such as was the dream of Mr. Adams and the hope of Mr. Blaine.

MR. CLEVELAND'S FATUOUS ADVICE.

THE rapid dwindling of the gold reserve until, for the fourth time in two years, it has been so depleted as to make apparent that persistency on the part of Mr. Carlisle in waiving the option conferred on him by law to redeem the "greenbacks" and Treasury notes in either gold or silver, at his discretion, in refusing to make use of the silver at his disposal, and holding the Treasury bounden to redeem the notes in gold, must inevitably lead to its early and complete exhaustion, unless further steps be at once taken for its replenishment by the issue of more bonds for gold, is but the logical result of Mr. Cleveland's blind and fatuous adherence to the gold standard. Confronted with a depleted and dwindling gold reserve, and in momentary expectation of large withdrawals for shipments in the immediate future, Mr. Cleveland, without specifically recommending any legislation, or even so much as directly mentioning either "greenback" or Treasury note, urges Congress to forgo the holiday recess, and at once pass such legislation as will restore the gold reserve, and prevent its depletion in the future, until such time as by the cancellation of the "greenbacks" and Treasury notes of 1890 the government is freed from the obligation to provide for their redemption and the maintenance of a gold reserve for this purpose becomes unnecessary.

Unless we amend our financial system by the retirement of the "greenbacks" and Treasury notes, which must be done by funding them in interest-bearing gold bonds, a constantly recurring and periodical depletion of the gold reserve must be expected.

This is the gist of the President's latest message. He declares that "we are in the midst of another season of perplexity, caused by our dangerous and fatuous financial operations," and he asks from Congress such prompt aid as will enable him to surmount the present "predicament" in which he finds himself placed, and thus relieve him from the self imposed necessity of taking such action as will restore the gold reserve, and "relieve the dangers of the present emergency."

But the season of perplexity is of Mr. Cleveland's own making. It is the logical result of the pursuit of a policy that is not alone bankrupting our people, but must ultimately bankrupt the nation.

It is not from the depletion of the gold reserve that the people suffer, but, on the contrary, the depletion of the gold reserve is the result of their impoverishment. It is the appreciation of gold, causing the value of our exports to be cut in half, not the inflation of our currency resulting in high prices, that is the real cause of gold exports. The constant appreciation of gold that makes the ownership of money more profitable than the ownership of property, that attracts money from its natural channels, withdraws it from productive enterprises and local centers, and concentrates it in financial centers, thus causing the destruction of local markets, and placing all producers in dependence on distant markets, and at the mercy of the owners of money, both as producers and consumers, is the blight from which our people suffer, and which lays them under the heavy tribute to foreign money lenders that makes the export of gold inevitable, and leads to the depletion of the gold reserve.

As long as prices continue to fall, as they must, so long as gold continues to appreciate, there will be no inclination on the part of owners of money to buy the produce of labor, save for immediate consumption. Hence, just so long as prices continue to fall, the market will be restricted, and producers anxious to dispose of their products at once will find themselves forced to make large concessions in price to obtain a market. And while the appreciation of gold thus places all producers unable to protect themselves from falling prices by combination into trusts, and the restriction of production, in dependence on, and at the mercy of the owners of money, for a market for what they have to sell, it also places them at the mercy of trusts and monopolies,—which are impossible when industries are diversified and widely distributed, but inevitable when centered in a few financial centers, and controlled by the same interests,—for what they have to buy.

It is persistence in adhering to the gold standard that tends to place us in greater and greater dependence on, and under heavier and heavier tribute to our foreign creditors, that depletes our gold reserve.

The President declares "there can be no just apprehension that the American people will be satisfied with less than an honest payment of our obligations in the recognized money of the world." Truly, with nothing less than an honest payment of their obligations will the American people be satisfied, but honesty does not require that the creditor be paid with a dollar that has as great a purchasing power as two dollars had when the debt was contracted. It is as dishonest for the creditor to rob the debtor as for the debtor to rob the creditor, and it is as unjust to require the debtor to pay an appreciated dollar, as to require the creditor to accept a depreciated dollar, and since the larger part of our national debt has been refunded, the gold dollar has appreciated 100 per cent. or more.

Nor is the issue of credit money by the government dangerous, nor does a sound financial policy require the surrender of the sovereign power to issue money by the government to the banks. Our financial operations are dangerous only in so far as the fatuous policy of the President has made them dangerous. Our five hundred million dollars of Treasury notes and "greenbacks" are a menace to the gold reserve only because of the fatuous, foolish course of Mr. Cleveland in refusing to use silver for redemption

purposes, and throwing the burden for redemption upon gold alone.

Behind the Treasury notes there is, as bullion, more than dollar for dollar in silver, but which Mr. Cleveland treats as nonexistent. The gold and silver in the Treasury, not specifically pledged for the redemption of the \$340,000,000 of silver certificates and \$50,000,000 of gold certificates, amounts to nearly \$300,000,000, which is by law available for the redemption of the \$486,000,000 of legal tender and Treasury notes. But Mr. Cleveland insists on making use of the gold alone. It is only because Mr. Cleveland arbitrarily makes the Treasury notes and "greenbacks" redeemable in gold alone, basing them, in fact, on less than \$70,000,000 of gold, instead of the broad basis of \$300,000,000 of gold and silver, that our financial operations are dangerous.

Mr. Cleveland's one remedy is the retiring of the "greenbacks" and Treasury notes. But if the vacuum caused by the funding of these government notes, as recommended by Mr. Cleveland, would be filled, as he confidently asserts, with bank currency, how would the export of gold be checked? If we suffer from inflation of government issues, which is equivalent to say that we suffer from high prices, how are we to be benefited by substituting bank inflation for government inflation. The promise of the issue of bank currency to fill the void we can look upon only as a mere bait to Congressional action.

Mr. Carlisle asserts that such cancellation would not necessarily be followed by contraction of the circulation, but he qualifies this by the statement that if such a result should permanently follow "it would be a demonstration of the fact that the volume of currency previously existing was not needed in the business of the people, for, whenever the volume is reduced below the actual requirements of trade, the deficiency will be supplied either from abroad in exchange for our products, or by the banks at home." In other words, if prices fell as a result of this contraction it would be a demonstration that prices were previously too high, for whenever prices fell materially below the European level our exports would increase largely, until gold should flow here from abroad to supply any deficiency in our circulation. How our farmers would fancy buying gold to fill a part of the deficiency, caused by the cancellation of the "greenbacks" and Treasury notes, by increasing their exports of wheat and corn, of pork and cotton, etc., at still lower prices, we will leave the farmers to answer.

Lower prices are the inevitable result of gold-monometallism, and we must restore silver or make up our minds to a contraction of our currency until prices have fallen so much below the European gold level as to induce exports in excess of imports to an amount of not less than \$300,000,000 a year, for this is approximately the sum that is required to meet interest and other charges abroad, aside from payments on account of imports.

The path for Congress is clear. The Sherman Act of 1890, the purchasing clause of which alone has been repealed, requires that the Secretary of the Treasury "shall coin of the silver bullion purchased under this act as much as may be necessary to provide for the redemption of the Treasury notes herein provided for." This mandate Mr. Carlisle does not regard as imperative, for although the same act makes the notes redeemable in either gold or silver, at his discretion, it contains the declaratory clause that it is "the established policy of the United States to maintain the two metals on a parity with each other." How the value of silver bullion can be enhanced by throwing the demand for redemption on gold alone, which is now the more valuable metal at the present ratio, Mr. Carlisle has never explained. By discriminating against silver in favor of gold Mr. Carlisle is doing everything possible to make the disparity between the coin value and the bullion value of silver permanent by discrediting silver and by so doing is negativating the declaratory clause of the act.

Let the Senate and House answer Mr. Cleveland's message by passing Senator Vest's or a similar resolution directing the

Secretary of the Treasury to coin the silver purchased under the Sherman Act into standard dollars, and with such dollars to redeem the Treasury notes of 1890 issued for the purchase of such silver and also to redeem the "greenbacks" in standard silver dollars as well as in gold, using whichever may be most abundant or convenient.

CHINESE COMPETITION IN COTTON.

In 1874 the Shanghai price of a picul (133½ lbs.) of the best Chinese cotton was about 12 Haikwan taels. To-day 12 Haikwan taels is still given as about the average purchase price of a picul of the best Chinese cotton in Shanghai, and during all the intermediate years the price of cotton varied but little. For the last twenty-one years the average price of Chinese cotton has been about 12 Haikwan taels. But the Haikwan tael is based on silver. In 1874 it was worth \$1.61 in gold, on October last but 80 cents, while on the first of the year it was worth but 74.9 cents.

For twelve Haikwans silver taels the Englishman could have bought a picul of Chinese cotton in 1874 or 1875; for 12 Haikwan taels he can still buy a picul of cotton. But in 1874 he had to pay for this tael \$1.61 in gold, while to-day he pays but 80 cents, so that the cotton that would have cost him \$19.32 in 1874 or 1875 would cost him to-day only \$9.60. The silver price of cotton in Shanghai has remained unchanged for the past twenty-five years, but the price to the buyer purchasing with gold has varied with the fluctuations in silver.

In 1874-75 the Haikwan tael cost \$1.61 in gold, which made the cost of cotton purchased in Shanghai at 12 Haikwan taels per picul 14.49 cents per pound, in 1886 the cost of the tael in gold had fallen to \$1.236, which reduced the gold price of cotton costing 12 taels per picul proportionately, or to 11.12 cents per pound.

The following table shows the gold value of the Haikwan tael at various periods since the demonitization of silver, and what cotton would have cost in gold per pound at the identical periods, the price of cotton being taken at 12 Haikwan taels per picul. (1 picul=133½ lbs.):

| | Value of Haikwan tael in gold. | Cost to purchaser paying in gold, of cotton at 12 Haik- wan taels per picul. |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1874, | . . . | \$1.61 14.49c. per lb. |
| 1886, | . . . | 1.236 11.12 " |
| January 1, 1888, | . . . | 1.155 19.39 " |
| " 1, 1890, | . . . | 1.35 12.25 " |
| " 1, 1892, | . . . | 1.137 10.23 " |
| " 1, 1893, | . . . | 1.01 9.09 " |
| " 1, 1894, | . . . | .849 7.64 " |
| " 1, 1895, | . . . | .749 6.74 " |
| April 1, 1895, | . . . | .756 6.8 " |
| July 1, 1895, | . . . | .80 7.2 " |
| October 1, 1895, | . . . | .80 7.2 " |

This clearly shows how the fluctuations in silver affect the price of cotton. It is true, Chinese cotton does not come, to an appreciable extent, in direct competition with American cotton, and that Chinese cotton being of a poor grade, because of unscientific cultivation, American cotton has the preference in the European markets. But none the less, a fall in the purchase price of Chinese cotton in gold must result in a fall in American cotton, because the poorer grade of Chinese cotton will be purchased and used in place of our cotton in the manufacture of low grade goods if the price for our better cotton is held at a price above the Chinese cotton more than sufficient to compensate for the difference in quality.

In view of the great advantage which the fall in the gold price of silver has given the cultivators of cotton in China, it is not surprising that the exports of cotton from Shanghai should have

risen from 278,600 piculs (37,146,666 lbs.) in 1886 to 930,400 piculs (124,043,333 lbs.) in 1894, of which Japan took 47,600 piculs in 1886, and 576,000 piculs in 1894, which cotton is being manufactured into goods that are replacing the prints formerly made in England and America with American cotton for the Chinese and Japanese trade, and thus curtailing the demand for American cotton.

Speaking of this exportation of cotton Mr. T. R. Jernigan, United States Consul General at Shanghai, remarks in his consular report: "It may be noted that the large increase in exportation did not increase the price of cotton, and this may confirm the opinion among business men here that the Chinese are prepared to extend the area of cultivation of cotton in proportion as the demand arises. Along the Yangtze valley the soil available for cotton cultivation appears as limitless as the supply of labor in China appears inexhaustible."

This is the new competition we are raising up by blindly adhering to the gold standard, resulting in the depreciation of the gold price of silver.

Nor can we safely assume that this competition will be restricted to the lower grades of cotton. The poor grade of cotton now raised is the result merely of a poor system of cultivation. On this point Mr. Jernigan says: "Cotton is not cultivated in China as in the United States. The preparations of the soil and the planting and cultivation are different. The ridges are wide, like the ridges of an American wheat field, and the seed is sown as the American farmer sows wheat. Consequently the plants are very thick, and the Chinese cotton farmer cultivates every plant to the full maturity possible. The necessity for sufficient space for the plant to grow and branch is not admitted, and, when matured, the stalk is small and the limbs comparatively few. This thickness of growth necessarily results in small bolls and a short staple." . . . "When the Chinese are taught the advantage of properly spacing their cotton rows and thinning the cotton plant so that the warm air and the rays of the sun can freely penetrate, the change from the present system of cultivation will be rewarded by an increased yield per acre, and a much finer staple."

There is little of comfort to the American cotton raiser in this. And the competition that is growing up in cotton is but an instance of what is occurring in other industries.

The "Yellow Man" and the "White Dollar" are more than a match for the "White Man" and the "Yellow Dollar."

THE PRIMARY REASON FOR GOLD EXPORTS.

IT is a mistake to attribute the large gold exports of the past two weeks solely to the fear on the part of foreign holders of American securities that the stand taken by the President and Congress on the Venezuelan question might lead to serious complications, and the consequent return and sale of their securities. The sale of American securities by our foreign creditors and the demand for gold in payment must inevitably lead to increased gold exports unless foreigners see fit to re-invest in American securities to an extent that will offset this demand, but the immediate effect of the throwing on our markets for sale of the holdings of foreign investors to a considerable extent has been two-fold. The sale of the securities has created a demand on the part of foreigners for payment, and hence a demand for gold for export, but, on the other hand, the pressure of foreign holdings on our markets for sale has greatly depressed prices and caused a rapid and enormous advance in the rates of interest, which induced the foreign bankers to postpone remittances, and loan the funds received in payment for the securities sold, in America, borrowing, meanwhile, the money with which to pay their customers, in London.

By so doing, they reap as profit the difference between the rates of interest ruling in London and New York. Thus, while the demand for gold for export has been increased by the sale of American securities on account of foreign holders, it has been

decreased by the resulting advance in interest rates that attracts the loaning of the money realized from the sale of the securities, in America, thus temporarily postponing the export of gold in payment.

Although any demand on the part of our foreign creditors of the principal of our debt, as by the return of our securities, must lead ultimately to accelerated gold exports, the truth is that our foreign debt has, under the appreciating gold standard, grown to such immense proportions that the payment of interest charges alone, together with the large sums due foreign shippers on our carrying trade, and the annual expenses of Americans living and traveling abroad which have become enormous, makes a constant drain on our stock of gold inevitable. Gold-monometallism has brought us to the stage where gold exports are no longer periodical, and intermittent with gold imports, but continuous. We have reached that condition where the only check to gold exports is by borrowing gold abroad by the sale of government bonds,—the pledge of our united credit and property. There is only one more step to bankruptcy.

Our efforts to meet our foreign charges and reduce the principal of our foreign debt have been brought to naught by the appreciation of gold. We have trebled the quantity of our exports during the last twenty years, but the total value of our exports has increased scarcely 60 per cent. The decline in the prices received for our exports has made it impossible to meet our annual charges, much less reduce the principal of the debt, and we have gone on adding mortgage to mortgage, and interest charge to interest charge, vainly striving to put off the inevitable, until finally our individual promises to pay are no longer acceptable, and we can avert bankruptcy, even temporarily, only by the pledge of our national credit. We must stop sacrificing our property, or inevitable ruin and virtual dependence on foreign money interests awaits us.

Our patriotism will be of no avail to save us from dependence on Great Britain, unless we throw off the yoke to which we are now blindly bending our necks, cast aside the suicidal policies that we have accepted from British money lenders who have cajoled a great nation into adopting a policy that sacrifices our material well-being to their own aggrandizement and power, and unite financial and industrial with political independence.

In defence of our political independence, in defence of the rights of a kindred Republic, we arise as one man and bid defiance to an overbearing and powerful aggressor. But even as we bid defiance, we make ourselves vulnerable to the subtle attacks of the same aggressor, on our financial and industrial independence. Even while we bid defiance to Great Britain, we blindly tie our own hands and strengthen her's by submitting to a voluntary tribute. We permit her to increase the burden of the interest charges on our foreign debt, and fix the prices of our exports at such a low figure as absorbs all the profit of production.

A glance at our trade for the first eleven months of the present year, will suffice of itself, and aside from any demand for the payment of the principal of our debt, to explain the exportation of gold. For the eleven months ending November 30th, net exports of gold, less net imports of gold ore, amounted in the aggregate to \$56,510,452, and silver, less net imports of ore, to \$27,149,865, or a total of \$83,660,317 that we have sent abroad in eleven months. During the same period, our imports of merchandise exceeded exports by \$7,148,033, so that the total balance in our favor appears to be only \$76,512,284, which, as a matter of fact, is more than it really is, for *ad-valorem* duties put a temptation on the undervaluation of imports. For the same period, expenses of Americans traveling and living abroad probably required the remittance of an equivalent sum, which leaves interest charges and freights due foreign shippers to an amount of not less than \$200,000,000, entirely unprovided for, and calling for settlement. No wonder gold goes!

The idea seems to be prevalent that our foreign debt has been

materially reduced since the Baring failure in November, 1890, by the return of our securities. But nothing of the kind has taken place, as can be readily shown. During the five fiscal years 1891-1895, exports of merchandise have exceeded imports by \$497,416,722, net exports of gold have amounted to \$192,645,814, and of silver to \$62,824,135 or a total balance in our favor and available for payment of our indebtedness of \$752,886,671. But obviously this sum was not available for a reduction of the principal of our foreign debt. During the same period the value of our imports carried in foreign bottoms was \$3,114,000,000, on which freights due foreign shippers could not have been less than 8 per cent., or \$249,120,000. For the same period, American vessels carried nearly \$367,000,000 worth of exports, on account of which they would have earned, if they received freights equivalent to 12 per cent. of the value of the cargoes, \$43,990,000, thus leaving an adverse balance due foreign shippers of \$205,130,000 for the five years. Add to this, expenses of Americans abroad, \$75,000,000 a year for five years, of \$375,000,000, and we have a total charge on account of current indebtedness, and aside from interest on the principal, of \$580,130,000, which, deducted from the sum of \$752,886,671 to our credit for the same period, on account of excess of merchandise and gold and silver exports over imports, leaves but \$172,756,671 available for the payment of interest, or less than \$35,000,000 a year, whereas interest charges footed up, on the average, to probably not less than \$175,000,000 per annum. Thus, instead of decreasing our foreign indebtedness, we increased it during the period by probably not less than \$140,000,000 per annum, or \$700,000,000 for the period.

Since 1890, American bankers have, it seems probable, become the purchasers of considerable blocks of American securities offered for sale by foreigners, but payment has been made by borrowing abroad. Floating debt has taken the place of debt represented by securities, and here is the explanation of the American credits to an amount of £35,000,000 sterling, or \$175,000,000, which Rothschild alone is reported to have, and contemplates calling. Our position is indeed critical.

And there is but one escape and one remedy. Restore bimetallism and raise the value of what we send abroad in settlement of our debt.

WOMAN'S WAYS.

'T IS true, one-half of woman's life is hope,
And one-half resignation. Between these lies
Anguish of broken dreams, doubt, dire surprise ;
And then is born the strength with all to cope.

Unconsciously sublime, life's shadowed slope
She braves ; the knowledge in her patient eyes
Of all that love bestows and love denies,
As writ in every woman's horoscope !

She lives, her heart-beats given to others' needs,
Her hands to lift for others on the way
The burdens which their weariness forsook.
She dies, an uncrowned doer of good deeds.

Remembered? Yes, as is for one brief day
The rose one leaves in some forgotten book.
—*Mary Ashley Townsend.*

**

Miss Abbie Gardner, the only living survivor of the famous Sioux massacre at Lake Okoboji, Iowa, in 1856, has secured from the Iowa legislature an appropriation of \$7,000 for a monument to mark the spot, which will be dedicated next month.

**

The first American woman to occupy a professor's chair in a coeducational institution was Helen C. Morgan, who was made professor of Latin at Fisk University in 1869.

**

Japanese women never discuss their servants. To do so would be contrary to Japanese etiquette. They may talk of dress, the theatre and the rest.

Mrs. Emery, wife of a rancher of Gold Beach, Or., always accompanies her husband on the "drives" from the ranch to the railway or market, doing her share of work and proving herself in every way, the boys say, as good a cowboy as any one in the outfit.

**

The position taken by women in Norway is very different to that which they occupy in America. It is quite customary for a girl to act as clerk in her father's office, or to help him in any occupation in which her talents are available. This is a beginning in the right direction. Home, before anything else, claims woman's attention and endeavor, and a girl in being her father's clerk is doing far greater good than in aspiring to fields of labor the benefit of which she can only reap herself.

**

Always man needs woman for his friend. He needs her clear vision, her subtler insight, her softer thought, her pure and tender heart. Always woman needs man to be her friend. She needs the vigor of his purpose, the ardor of his will, the calmer judgment, his braver force of action, his reverence and his devotion.

**

Miss Ella Ewing, of Price, Mo., is said to be eight feet and two inches in height, and weighs 290 pounds. She takes up the collection every Sunday in one of the churches of Price, and attracts more attention than the minister.

**

The woman who is annoyed by the lack of attention shown her in the shops ought to take her cue from the actresses. They mention casually that they wish such and such a thing to "wear on the stage," and the phrase for some inexplicable reason is talismanic. A sales girl never fails to thrill under the information and is ready to despoil half the shelves for the woman who "acts." Try it.

**

Don't promise to write if you don't intend to do so; don't make arrangements for future meetings if you intend, when the time comes, to forget all about them. Be careful in making friendships, but be equally careful in maintaining them once they are made and found to be pleasant and mutually beneficial. You can't afford to throw away the real thing when you have once discovered its merit ; but be sure of its merit before you so readily take it up.

A WORD WITH THE DOCTOR.

THE first stage of a cold is often the most trying, but it may be greatly relieved by the administration at night of a comforting beverage composed of the yolks of two eggs thoroughly beaten up in a tumbler, with a teaspoonful of sifted sugar, a port wine glass of good rum, and as much boiling water as will fill the tumbler. This dose should be taken after the patient is in bed, and may be repeated on subsequent nights, if one dose is not sufficient.

**

JANE K., PHILA.—The burned part or parts should be bathed with common essence of peppermint, such as one may procure at any druggist's for a few cents. Relief is almost immediate, but the bathing should be continued until the pain is over.

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A very nourishing drink for a convalescent is to add a fresh egg, beaten as light as possible, to a glass of strong lemonade. The lemon will destroy the raw animal taste that is so offensive to some.

**

Girls who are troubled with moist, clammy hands should use a plentiful supply of borax in the washing water, dusting afterwards with boracic acid powder or with the best borated talcum powder. Old gloves worn at night are sometimes successful in whitening and softening rough hands; also oatmeal water, allowed to dry on the hands, is an excellent bleacher.

**

Here's a good ointment for eczema, to be applied twice daily: Oxide of zinc, one dram.

Tar ointment, one-half ounce.

Cold cream, one ounce.

Rhubarb and soda mixture may also prove beneficial. Take a tablespoonful twice a day.

Oil stoves or gas stoves should never be kept burning in a sleeping-room, for they are burned in the open air of the room; and, having no connection with a chimney flue, they throw the poisonous carbonic oxide of combustion into the air of the apartment and make it unfit for respiration. Even an oil lamp is dangerous if left burning all night, but an oil stove is worse, because stoves generally feed more flame, consume more of the oxygen and give off more poisonous gas.

Don't expect to have clean teeth or a sweet breath while there is a tinge of white on the tongue. It is an unmistakable evidence of indigestion. Drink sour lemonade, eat ripe fruit and green vegetables for purgatives; exercise freely; use plenty of water internally and externally, and keep up the treatment until the mouth is clean, healthy and red. Various things are suggested to counteract an unpleasant breath, resulting from a bad tooth or garlic-scented dishes. Cinnamon, mint, creams, orris root, cloves, mastic-resin and spruce gum will disguise some odors. Ten drops of tincture of myrrh in a glass of water will sweeten and refresh the mouth; a teaspoonful of spirits of camphor or peppermint in the same gargle is among the best antiseptics, and a few drops of myrrh and camphor in the water are recommended in case of cold, throat trouble or any slight indisposition which may affect the breath.

A CHAPTER ABOUT CHILDREN.

CAN you name a little flower
That, until a few days old,
Has a head, like baby brother's
Of bright and shining gold?

Then some fine day, at four o'clock,
It shuts up very tight;
Next morning shows a soft, round head
Like grandpa's—silver white.

—By Mary Reynolds.

Here are a few paragraphs on table manners for the little ones. Mothers, in their own loving, gentle way, know best how to impart them:

Drink from the cup—never from the saucer.

Teaspoons are left in the saucer, not in the cup.

Little children only have the napkin arranged as a bib.

Making a noise, either in eating or drinking, is vulgar.

Always cheerfully defer to older people and to guests.

Eat slowly, and do not fill the mouth with large quantities.

Eat the food served, or quietly leave it on the plate without remark.

Avoid drumming with the fingers or feet; it is the height of impoliteness.

If in doubt at any time as to what is proper, follow the example of others of more experience.

Patiently await the coming of your turn; do not follow with the eyes the food served to others.

Never unnecessarily handle the dishes, or in any other manner exhibit nervousness or impatience.

Do not feel obliged to "clean up the plate;" especially do not make a laborious display of doing so.

Do not ask for any particular part of a fowl, or similar dish, unless asked your preference; in that case always indicate something, and if there be really no choice, designate the portion with which the host can most conveniently render service.

Mother—Elsie, your sister tells me you took a second helping of pudding at Mrs. Brown's to-day?

Little Elsie—So I did, mamma.

"Do you think that was right, Elsie?"

"Yes. You know you have often told me not to contradict any one, and Mrs. Brown said: 'I know Elsie will have a second helping of pudding,' and I couldn't contradict her, could I?"

Mamma smiled, and said nothing.

Ever since the Spanish people have had a child king "boy battalions" have sprung up in various parts of Spain. Almost every village has its children who, after school hours devote their time to military drill.

A tiny child was waiting with her mother at a railway station, and a little distance off was standing a soldier in Highland uniform.

The child asked her mother if she might speak to the soldier, and being questioned as to why she wanted to speak to him, she replied:

"I want to tell him his stockings are coming down!"

A little girl was overheard talking to her doll, whose arm had come off, exposing the sawdust stuffing. "You dear, good, obedient dolly, I knew I had told you to chew your food fine, but I didn't think that you would chew it so fine as that!"

NEWSPAPER NOTES.

The Farm, Field and Fireside, Chicago, Illinois, wheeled into line last week with such a "Christmas number" as its many readers would naturally expect from a journal of its well-known standing.

At Accra, on the Gold Coast, the first daily newspaper of West Africa, *The Gold Coast Express*, has been started. It is a four-page sheet, each page the size of ordinary letter paper.

The Evening Herald, Duluth, Minn., published a few days ago a series of well-written articles descriptive of Duluth's growth and steady progress during the past year. It showed, indeed, a most remarkable record during a year of general depression throughout the entire country. Duluth is a wonderful city, and its residents have all of the essentials that deserve and win prosperity. It is proper to add that the *Herald* has kept pace with the city's advance, and is eminently a fitting representative of its varied interests.

Literary Olio is the latest accession to the ranks of monthly magazines. It is published at Perkasie, Pa., and is designed to be "a magazine of choice original literature." It has a department devoted "to the free use of subscribers for exchange of things 'literary.'" It caters to the many who can't afford the luxury of high prices and is sold at five cents per copy.

The Sunday World, Cleveland, Ohio, is, in point of excellence, fairly up to date with the Sunday newspapers of Philadelphia, New York and Chicago. No better sample of advanced journalism can be found. It's a credit in every way to the growing city of Cleveland.

Humanity, Kansas City, Mo., didn't appear last month and its editor says that "circumstances which we did not control prevented its publication." He adds: "It will be published regularly in the future if our readers will do their duty. Editorials can be written very cheaply, but it takes money to place them before the reader!"

There had been a caller at the boarding house of the ingenue of a season while she was doing the theatrical exchanges, and she was catechising the maid.

"Did you ask him to leave his name, Marie?"

"Yes, mum; but he said you wouldn't know him by it."

"Maybe he's changed it."

"Yes, mum."

"Did he look like an actor or just a gentleman?"

"Neither, mum; he was very nice. He said he was a newspaper man."

"Oh, pshaw! That's too bad! I'm almost sure he wanted my picture for the paper."

Miss Helen Gregory Flesher, who graduated at the Trinity University, Canada, with honors in mental and moral philosophy and languages, has assumed editorial charge of the San Francisco *Search-light*. She is one of the ablest young writers on the Pacific coast.

OUR PARIS LETTER.

THE EASTERN QUESTION AND ITS COMPLICATIONS—ENGLAND AND RUSSIA AT ODDS ON THE MATTER OF RESPONSIBILITY—FRENCH LEGISLATORS DEFER ITS DISCUSSION FOR THE PRESENT.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

PARIS, December 6, 1895.

THE French have a saying which aptly defines the European situation: "*c'est la bouteille à l'encre*," the "bottle of ink," out of which anything may issue, and of which no one can see the bottom. For the time being, the Eastern question, precipitately, and perhaps imprudently, brought on the tapis by England, has lost much of its redoubtable character. The Sultan's direct message to Lord Salisbury imposes a certain delay of decorum even upon those Powers which are most anxious for a solution, and diplomatists take advantage of this superficial calm to celebrate their "harmonious accord." Now, this "accord" is impossible, for the all sufficient reason that neither France nor Russia will consent to adhere to the program which bears that vague and commonplace signature—*Europe*. So long as the impatient are confined to mere diplomatic "talkee, talkee," the nominal concert is durable; so soon as the war party shall force the peace party into action, a rupture is inevitable. In reality, all the notes, counsels, and warnings, issued with an intention to deceive the public, conceal two contradictory tendencies, two discordant solutions; on the one hand are those who are resolved to defend the integrity of the Ottoman Empire; on the other are the no less obstinate partisans of its dismemberment.

Is any mutual understanding between these two hostile and irreconcilable conceptions admissible? Certainly, so long as no one moves; but any movement must involve a scission, and only those who are blind to the logic of events, or whose interest it is to conceal the truth, can dissimulate the inevitable danger.

Who is Responsible?

With whom lies the responsibility of this terrible complication?

Russia lays it at the doors of England; without the agitation of the Anglo-Armenian clubs of London, there would have been no Armenian "atrocities," no uprising of populations against their rulers, but Lord Rosebery and, after him, Lord Salisbury were interested in the creation of troubles which might result in the acquisition of new possessions to the British Empire. The proposal, elaborated by Mr. Stevenson, president of the Anglo-Armenian Association, and recommended by British diplomatists, leaves no doubt of the objective of the British Government:—1.—Constantinople to become a free town administered by seven commissioners appointed by the six great powers, and by Switzerland; 2.—England to have Egypt and Arabia; 3.—France, Syria and Mesopotamia; 4.—Austria, Asia Minor west of the river Kisis-Irmak; 5.—Russia, all Asia Minor to the east of that boundary; 6.—Italy, Albania and Tripoli; 7.—Greece, Crete, Cyprus, the Sporades and Smyrna; 8.—Bulgaria, Thrace; 9.—Macedonia *equitably* divided between Greece, Bulgaria and Servia; 10.—Cilicia to be erected into an independent Armenian principality. The Russian Chancellery has categorically replied to the British Ambassador: "On no consideration will any attention be given to a project so *absurd* as that of the partition of Turkey." This official refusal indicates Russia's intentions in the matter, and Russia will not modify her attitude, whatever be its consequences.

On the other hand, if the British press is to be believed, Russia alone is the mischief maker. It is thanks to her perfidious counsels that the Sultan has not granted reforms to his Christian subjects and given guarantees for their faithful execution. An annex to the treaty of Berlin authorized the passage of the Dardanelles to additional *stationnaires*, yet Abd-ul-Hamid refuses his

firman *ad hoc*. Some occult influence, some irresponsible adviser, behind the scenes, paralyzes the action of the official ministers, by the assurance that the discords of European Cabinets must culminate in a rupture of the European concert. This fatal delusion is the basis of all the delays and tergiversations of the Sultan since the 19th of November, in spite of the favorable *masbatahs* of the Porte. At Yildiz Kiosque, the faintest sign of disagreement is seized upon with an avidity that would be ridiculous, were not the possible consequences of this tendency so serious. The German Admiralty makes known that the absence from the German fleet of any vessel of the proper model, would prevent the presence of a second *stationnaire* in the Sea of Marmora, even should the Sultan authorize the passage of the Straits, which, in concert with the other Ambassadors, the German diplomat had demanded.

As soon as this was known, the wiseacres at the Imperial palace persuaded their sovereign that this was an indubitable proof of Germany's intention to withdraw from the combination. It was nothing of the kind, and the despatch of the ironclad *Hessen* to the Levant ought to convince His Majesty that the Powers are, and mean to remain, in perfect harmony, and will not abate one jot or tittle of their pretension, within the limits, to their *action* that they have traced. Theoretically, therefore, there should be no cause for apprehension; unfortunately there is no absolute agreement as to what that *action* shall be, when deeds take the place of words. Russia and her ally France will oppose, England and her satellite Italy will demand, dismemberment; no one knows what Germany means to do, Austria will follow in the German wake, and the other nations will side with the party that seems to have the best chance of ultimate triumph and may offer the most advantageous *quid pro quo*, all of which augurs badly for the coming year. The certainty of a general collision must then be admitted, and the only doubtful point is the date of its occurrence.

Legislators want a Rest.

We are here at the commencement of a period known as the *trevo des Confiseurs*, the "confectioners' truce," or, in plain English, on the eve of the Christmas holidays, when French legislators, in a hurry to go home, avoid all discussions which might prolong the session of the Chambers, and during which matters may remain in *statu quo*. This truce will—barring unforeseen accidents—last until after the 12th of January, the New Year's day of Russia and her co-religionists of the "Orthodox Church," and in the meantime diplomacy may invent some compromise. This, however, can be nothing more than a postponement of the general settling day, and, in prevision of eventualities, we are given to expect certain changes in the composition of the French Cabinet which are significant. Mr. Bourgeois, its president, has given more satisfaction than was warranted by his antecedents; a dyed in the wool Radical while in the Opposition ranks, he now "cuts off his Radical tail," and is qualified by his whilom co-religionists as a "Reactionary," simply because, recognizing the inopportune of certain measures insisted upon by them, he declines to advocate their adoption. But Mr. Bourgeois has collaborators in the Cabinet of whom he will be forced to rid himself: "Civil Admiral" Lockroy upsets everything in the Navy, and his persecution of Admiral Gervais is assuming such proportions as must end at loggerheads with himself and every officer in the service, notwithstanding the notorious unpopularity of his victim with his colleagues. As an essentially popular newspaper, *Le Petit Journal*, observes: "This is not the proper moment to transform a national organization, according to the *émile caprice* of an atrabilious amateur." (Sic.) Lockroy will then be requested, probably, to resign, and, so doing, will leave no regrets behind him. But another change is of more importance; the Minister of Foreign affairs is about to leave the Quai d'Orsay. Why? This is a conundrum. Officially, his departure will be, or is put down to the account of grief at his daughter's recent death; Mrs. Grundy

pretends that the presence of his son-in-law, Mr. Lyon, as his Chief of Cabinet is obnoxious, said Lyon being suspected of Anglophilist proclivities and Hebrew origin, both of which charges may be unfounded, but are nevertheless all-sufficient to awaken distrust in the public mind, always predisposed to the discovery of specks on the sun. The true version of this intended resignation is: the eminent chemist finds himself not up to the mark now that the international tension becomes, every day, more and more accentuated, and prefers not to engage his responsibility in possible complications. Mr. Bourgeois, at heart, is pleased by this withdrawal of an insufficient coadjutor, but, as when he was appointed as a makeshift, no one is disposed to accept the situation, which, as a last resort, the Premier will be obliged to fill in person, a task of serious difficulty for one whose attention, hitherto, has been concentrated exclusively in questions relative to the Home Administration. Events will show his ability in the foreign line, but you may be assured that he will be a firm supporter of the Franco-Russian program, and, as such will be upheld by his fellow citizens, of whom the vast majority is favorably impressed by the unhesitating moderation of his policy, by his prompt action in the matter of Panama frauds, by the capture of the ubiquitous Arton and the arrest of his reputed lieutenant Soulagoux and, last if not least, by his energetic warning, in the first instance to Baron Rothschild, through the Finance Minister, more recently by an article in the *Agence Havas*, an "officious" *Anglice* "inspired" by Government organ—that the Hebrew manœuvres at the Bourse, or all the foreign operators against French credit would be expelled from French soil, a measure as you may remember, originally proposed by Mr. Dumont in the *Libre Parole*, which meets with universal approval. Mr. Bourgeois is clever, not to say tricky; if he takes the Foreign Affairs Department, it will be that he feels himself capable in that line, and not being of a "shilly-shally" nature, his program will not fluctuate like that of his predecessor, whose sympathies with England are as notorious as were those of the late Waddington. Already has Mr. Bourgeois given evidences of parliamentary acuteness, by the skilful avoidance of several vexatious discussions that might have imperilled the solidity of his Cabinet; his game is to gain time, and so he amuses the legislators with questions relating to the Exposition of 1900, and with intended or pretended economies in the Budget. Mr. Bourgeois is credited with skepticism as regards the imminence of war, a skepticism that I share, although admitting the gravity of the situation.

The Situation in a Nutshell.

The question rests between Russia and England; Russia will, assuredly not strike the first blow, and Lord Salisbury is too intelligent to open a ball when his only partner will be impecunious, if blatant, Italy. That Britannia can sweep the seas, can ravage the seaboard of an enemy, is undeniable, but what afterwards? India and Ireland might be dangerous diversions in her rear, and her army is not numerically strong enough to cope with the legions of the Tsar. Besides, where could meet the forces of the two Empires? The elephant and the whale, according to Bismarck's definition.

Z.

FOREIGN FACTS AND FANCIES.

DONATELLO'S famous altar in the Church of St. Anthony at Padua is to be reconstructed according to the original plan, making use of the fragments and bronze figures belonging to it, which are now scattered all over the church.

Experiments *in corpore vilo* with boiled water for drinking are being made in the Punjab in India. In cholera years the water for the prisoners in jail is boiled; to find out whether it would not be as well to boil it always, the Lieutenant Governor has ordered half the prisoners to be kept on plain water and half on boiled, and to have the results recorded for a year.

King Humbert having conferred the collar of the order of the Annunziata on the Mikado's uncle, the *Osservatore Romano* points

out that by the statutes of the order he should "swear to defend the Holy Catholic Church and the Sovereign Pontiff of Rome." The Grand Collars are called cousin by the King.

**

A census of centenarians recently taken in France gives two hundred and thirteen persons of one hundred or over, one hundred and forty-seven of them women and sixty six men. The oldest was a woman who had just died at one hundred and fifty, in a village of the Department of Haute Garonne. Nearly all the centenarians belonged to the lowest ranks in life.

As the English law officers are no longer permitted to retain their private practice, Sir Edward Clarke, who was Solicitor-General in Lord Salisbury's last Ministry, has refused to again take the office, though the salary is \$30,000 and fees, averaging \$12,000 a year, and it is a sure step toward the Lord Chancellorship.

**

A gigantic undertaking, the bridging over of Polk's Strait, separating the island of Ceylon from the mainland of India, is seriously proposed by the Ceylon Government. The strait is forty-one miles broad at its narrowest point, double the width of the English Channel, but is very shallow, in many places only six feet deep. The islands, reefs, and channels in it have been recently surveyed, and the cost of works, extending over sixty-one miles, including the Pambam Channel and the Adam's Bridge reef, is estimated at 28,000,000 rupees. The ends will be connected by one hundred and forty-five miles of railroad, with Colombo, the great harbor of Ceylon, on the one side, and by ninety miles of road, with Madura, the nearest point of the Indian Railroad system, on the other. If narrow gauge is used this can be done for 11,000,000 rupees more.

SOCIOLOGICAL SUBJECTS.

I WOULDN'T be cross, dear, it's never worth while;
Disarm the vexation by wearing a smile.
Let hap a disaster, a trouble, a loss,
Just meet the thing boldly and never be cross.

I wouldn't be cross, dear, with people at home,
They love you so fondly; whatever may come,
You may count on the kinsfolk around you to stand,
Oh, loyally true, in a brotherly band!
So, since the fine gold far exceedeth the dross,
I wouldn't be cross, dear, I wouldn't be cross.

I wouldn't be cross with a stranger. Ah no!
To the pilgrims we meet on the life path we owe
This kindness, to give them good cheer as they pass,
To clear out the flint stones and plant the soft grass.
No, dear, with a stranger, in trial or loss,
I perchance might be silent; I wouldn't be cross.

No bitterness sweetens, no sharpness may heal
The wound that the soul is too proud to reveal,
No envy hath peace; by a fret and a jar
The beautiful work of our hands we may mar.
Let happen what may, dear, of trouble and loss,
I wouldn't be cross, love, I wouldn't be cross.

—Mrs. M. E. Sangster.

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.—*I Peter, 1. 13.*

**

There is a sort of economy in Providence that one shall excel where another is defective, in order to make them more useful to each other and mix them in society.—*Addison.*

**

Two Akka girls from Central Africa were brought to Europe some years ago by Dr. Stuhlmann to be civilized. They were sent back, and recently a German lady who came across them found that they had reverted to their former savage state. She could attract them to her for a short time only by bribing them, though they remembered the things they had seen in Europe.

**

A really contented man, one who has the opportunity of acquiring considerable wealth, but will not stretch out his hand to take advantage of it simply because he has all he wants, is said to exist on Soldier Creek, near the Illinois River, twenty miles west of Kirby, Oregon. He is W. H. Miller, a miner. He owns a rich ledge, from which he leisurely pounds out \$10 or \$12 a day. Under proper development, the ledge would yield rich returns, and Miller has had many offers to bond, sell, form stock companies, lease and make the most of his property, but he declines all. He lives alone, his wants are few, and he says: "The ledge will stay there; I own it; I'm independent as a hog on ice, and I'm happy and contented to stay just as I am."

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OUR LONDON LETTER.

GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, GERMANY, BELGIUM, AUSTRIA AND DENMARK REPRESENTED AT THE RECENT BI-METALLIC CONGRESS HELD IN FRANCE.—NOTABLE FINANCIERS DISCUSS THE MONETARY SITUATION.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

LONDON, December 14, 1895.

THE Congress of the British, German, and French Bimetallic Leagues, which has been holding its sittings this week in Paris, has been attended with the most brilliant success. The Congress, which extended over Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, has been supplemented by reunions held at the Bank and Mint of France, by a reception by the President of the Republic, M. Faure, and by several banquets, one of which was given in honor of the delegates by the Agricultural Society of France. The Congress was not invested with any official character, so far as the governments of England, Germany, and France are concerned, it was simply a meeting of the delegates of the Leagues of the three leading European nations, who met together to discuss from an international point of view a *modus operandi*, whereby a way, clear of all diplomatic obstacles and prejudices, might be opened up to the establishment of international bimetallism. But, though the Congress loses some importance by virtue of its non-official character, the high social position of the delegates, the intimate relations they stand in to the leading ministers in their respective countries, and their long experience and close knowledge of the question, leave no doubt that this Congress is watched with some interest, and maybe with some anxiety by the European authorities.

Nations That Were Represented.

The Congress was the result of a suggestion, which came to the British Bimetallic League some months back, that a bimetallic conference should be held, composed of delegates from the leading European nations, at which the details of the practical solution of the monetary question should be threshed out, and the outline of a harmonious, simultaneous movement on the part of bimetallists all over Europe be sketched. It was obviously essential that the proceedings should be scrupulously private, and it is noteworthy that so rigorously was this adhered to, that until the day of the first meeting, the press was not aware that the Congress was to be held. Delegates were to be sent by England, Germany, and France, as these are the only European nations in which Bimetallic Leagues flourish. The Congress was, however, in addition attended by representatives from Belgium, Austria, and Denmark, —an American gentleman was also present unofficially. The names of those composing the Congress were: England—Mr. W. H. Grenfell, Mr. W. R. Granville-Smith, Mr. J. Schack Sommer, and Mr. Hermann Schmidt. France—M. Loubet, ex-Premier of France; M. Meline, M. Cernuschi, M. Fongeiro, Baron de Ladoncette, and M. Théry, editor of the *Economiste Européen*. Germany—Count von Mirbach, Baron von Kardorff, and Dr. Otto Arendt. As stated above, representatives also attended from Belgium (M. Allard), Austria (Count Kollowrat), and Denmark (M. Roeder).

Bi-Metallism Essential to Prosperity.

The Congress had for its prime—indeed, one might say, for its only object—the establishment of a unity of action on the part of the various associations and leagues in Europe, which have for their purpose the removal of the existing currency iniquities. It has been long acknowledged that only a form of bimetallism which would be international in character could ever restore prosperity and activity to industry and agriculture. It is patent that to secure this international bimetallism, it is necessary that there should be complete harmony reigning in the councils of the various leagues throughout the world, and that all their efforts should be uniform, and all directed towards a common end at the

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same time. Of course, due allowance must be made for the slight divergences in method that may creep in in each country, owing to differences in custom, procedure, etc. These divergences, however, would have no effect upon the general working of this international action, and could not, in any way, diminish the tremendous pressure it would bring to bear upon the various governments when once initiated. This understanding between monetary reformers has not up to now been apparent, if, indeed, it has existed at all. The Paris Congress should mark the introduction of such an understanding, and when once the all-important adhesion of the United States has been secured, there will be at work throughout the universe a continuous and concentrated force directed against the opposition of gold-monometallists to any currency reform. Already—as a result of the Paris Congress—arrangements have been made for proposing in the legislative assemblies of Great Britain, France and Germany identical resolutions at the same time next year. The terms of these resolutions have been framed, but are at present quite private. It is not supposed, however, that anything more than an international conference to consider the question will be asked for.

A Reception by President Faure.

One of the most notable incidents connected with the conference was the reception held by M. Faure, President of the Republic, on the 12th, at which all the delegates were present. M. Bourgeois, the present Prime Minister of France, and M. Doumer, Minister of Finance, were also present. M. Bourgeois acknowledged in the frankest and sincerest manner the importance of the question, and endorsed the declaration of the preceding Cabinet that France would willingly join in a conference for the purpose of settling the monetary question. M. Faure supplemented this by alluding to the subject in the most friendly manner, and saying that it was of the greatest importance to all the world. One of the significant features of this reception was the fact that since the Franco-Prussian war this has been the first time that German delegates to any congress held in Paris have been received officially by the President of the French Republic. This has produced a most marked effect, and I have it on the best of authorities that it was a cause of much gratification to Count Munster, the German Ambassador at Paris, and will be equally pleasing to the Emperor. It is notable that the attitude of Germany to this congress has been most friendly. The reason for this may be found in the fact that in no nation, perhaps, is so much pressure being put upon the authorities by the advocates of agriculture as in Germany. Herr Richter, leader of the Freisinnige (People's) party at Berlin, roundly told Prince Hohenlohe, Prince Chancellor, on December 10, that on the return of the German representatives to Berlin he would either have to resign or accept the bimetallic remedy for the relief of the suffering agricultural interests. This is due to the growing power of the agrarians in Germany. If, as they have threatened, they were to join hands with the Socialists, they could put the government to sore straits. It is evident that the government has this in mind from the fact that they permitted two of the most influential officials in Germany—Baron Kardorff and Count Mirbach—to act as the delegates of the German League at this Congress.

G. W.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

RULING IDEAS OF THE PRESENT AGE. By Washington Gladden; pp. 299. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Cloth, \$1.25. (Received from J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia.)

TOWNSEND HARRIS, First American Envoy in Japan. By William Elliot Griffis; pp. 351. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Cloth, \$2. (Received from J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia.)

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR. Thirteen Original Seals of the Thirteen Original States. Boston: Lamson, Wolfe & Co. Price, \$1.

THE GOLD DIGGINGS OF CAPE HORN. By John R. Spears. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Cloth, \$1.75.

GONGRESSATIONAL CURRENCY ("Questions of the Day" Series). By Armistead C. Gordon. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Cloth, \$1.25.

A CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSES. By Robert Louis Stevenson. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. Cloth, \$1.50.

Way & Williams, PUBLISHERS, CHICAGO.

DRACHMANN (Holger).

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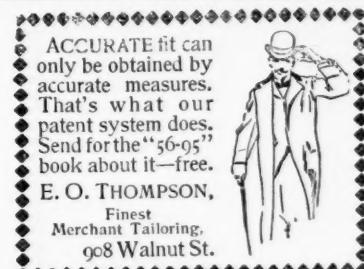
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The subjects he considers are "The Laws of Heredity, Theories of Heredity, Physical Heredity, Intellectual and Moral Heredity, Environment and the Problems of the Will, of the Home, of Education, of Pauperism, of Vice and Crime, of Sin and the Race, of Faith and of the Person of Christ." To speak in detail of the conclusions reached by the author in each of these chapters is forbidden here by lack of space. It is only fair to Mr. Bradford, however, to emphasize by repetition the distinguishing, and perhaps, most valuable feature of his book, and that is its practical character. The author has constant recourse to incidents in real life, drawn from his own experience, or from that of others, which enforce his meaning, and his citations from such authorities as Ribot, Elam, Maudsley, and Dugdale, are frequent and to the point.

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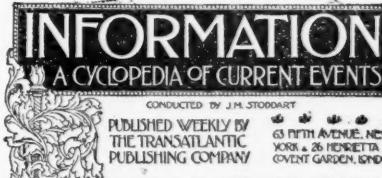
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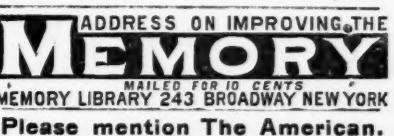
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arrested. Then the former Mrs. Conway appears on the scene, discloses to her son that the forger is her stepson, whom she adores, and pleads for his release. Conway acquiesces, but the identity of the authors of the plot to wreck the ship has, meantime been established, and the "Black Lamb" is kept under arrest on the second charge. Mrs. Conway, therupon, accuses her son of breaking his promise, and Conway, in his sorrow, leaves for India, in which he had been born. A very pretty love story, in which a friend of Conway takes a leading part, increases interest in the tale.

EUROPE IN AFRICA IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. By Elizabeth Wormeley Latimer. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co.

The purpose of Mrs. Latimer's latest work is to show the manner in which Africa has become practically a European possession, but it is not with politics so much as with the actual occurrences bringing about the present condition of affairs that she has concerned herself. Only a comparatively small portion of the vast continent of Africa is now unclaimed by one or another of the great European powers, and that which is left promises before long, through the march of the outriders of civilization—the explorers—to be appropriated. Only the tremendous natural difficulties and the dangers from savages to be encountered check a more rapid advance. Mrs. Latimer goes over, with necessary brevity the travels and exploits of such world-famous adventurers as Livingston, Gordon, Du Chaillu and Stanley, and of the foundation and growth and riches of the states which have sprung into existence in the footsteps of these men, and which now are valued possessions. The book is historical in aim, yet it is anything but dry. It presents an account of a country which is immensely interesting so far as it is known, written in a popular vein, and it should receive no less favorable attention than was given to the other entertaining works of like character which have come from the same pen.

ART AND SCIENCE.

IT is said that subcutaneous injections of salt have been found useful in the treatment of some forms of insanity.

**

A method of detecting fire damp by sound has been invented by M. Hardy and approved by the French Academie des Sciences. It is based on the fact that the sound emitted by an organ pipe varies according to the density of the air supplied. M. Hardy's apparatus consists of two small pipes, the size of a penny whistle, one of which is connected with the air in the mine and the other with the ventilator shaft. The presence of fire damp produces a discord at once between the two sounds, which increases with the quantity of gas, and can be measured. By this contrivance the presence of one part in five hundred of fire damp can be detected.

**

The Russian War Office has decided to use henceforth exclusively gray horses for artillery purposes, the reason given for the innovation being that animals of this color have been found by experience to be stronger and more enduring than the brown ones now used.

**

The disastrous experiences of ocean travellers have turned attention to the great Siberian railway, with hopes that its completion may clear the way for travelling to England by rail. While this may appear at first glance to be a dream of some irrational mind, or a fancy evolved from the imagination of Jules Verne, nevertheless a contemporary expresses the belief that the feat will yet be accomplished within the knowledge of persons now living. The latest report from the Siberian railway is to the effect that rapid progress is being made, and that unless unlooked-for delays occur, the road will be completed by 1906. It is then hoped that the road will be run to East Cape, on Behring Strait, and that an American railway will be extended along the Alaskan coast to Cape Prince of Wales, opposite East Cape. At this point Behring Strait is but thirty-six miles wide, and shallow enough to be bridged; and the natural bridge of ice, it is asserted, can also be depended upon for a considerable portion of the year. Then having bridged or tunnelled the English channel—propositions which have been announced as feasible—a complete trunk line could be established, and that inward longing which land-lubbers have to relieve their feelings when a few hours out at sea, could be thankfully avoided. Our contemporary remarks that "it is a great undertaking; but the construction of the Suez Canal was a

greater one." The cost, as estimated by the same authority, would only be \$163,700,000.

Dr. Herman Weber, of London, has given the Royal College of Physicians \$12,500 for the foundation of a prize to be offered every two or three years for the best essay on tuberculosis.

NUGGETS AND NUBBINS.

"FAREWELL! farewell!" Still at the gate
They loiter, though the hour be late.
If no cold wave were on the wing,
No doubt they'd say "farewell" till Spring.

"Men are odd creatures."

"What now?"

"You know how cross old Bondclipper is when a man goes into his office and asks him a civil question?"

"Yes."

"Well, sir, he'll walk back to the end of the office and answer a fool telephone message without complaint."

A hotel in Switzerland bore on one of its walls the time-honored inscription: "Hospes, salve!" (Welcome, stranger!) After rebuilding, the above legend had to be restored, but the painter, who must have had some experience as a traveler, made a very slight alteration in one of the words, and the inscription now reads: "Hospes, solve!" (Pay, stranger!)

"My dear," said he to his lady love, "I've been busy all day; not manual labor, you know, but brain work, which is the hardest kind."

"Yes, indeed; I know it must be for you," and there was a tender look of sympathy in her eyes which aroused him.

The following conversation is reported to have taken place between a minister and a widow, both of Aberdeen. The widow, who called upon the minister, seemed desirous to relieve her mind of something which oppressed her, at which the reverend gentleman, wishing to hurry matters, exclaimed:

"My good woman, you see I can be of no service to you until you tell me what it is that troubles you."

"Weel, sir, I'm thinkin' o' gettin' married again."

"Oh, that is it. Let me see; that is pretty frequently, surely. How many husbands have you had?"

"Weel, sir," she replied, in a tone less of sorrow than of bitterness, "this is the fourth. I'm sure there never was a wunnerful sae completely tormented wi' sic' a set of deelin' men as I've been, sir."

One day a stranger, approaching the late John Boyle O'Reilly from behind, mistook him for a friend whom he had not seen for some time. In his enthusiasm he stepped up, slapped his supposed friend on the shoulder, and greeted him with some particularly hearty expression. Many men in O'Reilly's position would have felt at least a momentary annoyance. Not so with the poet. Turning about, he stretched out his hand, "I'm not Jack," he said, "but I'm glad to shake hands with any man who is as glad to see an old friend as you seem to be."

Father O'Halloran had a telephone put in the parsonage in connection with the church and the parochial school, says the *Boston Transcript*. Patrick McFee, his reverence's handy man, was instructed in the use of the instrument, and it was only the next day when Pat, dusting out the church, heard the ringing of the telephone bell.

Taking down the receiver, Patrick was pleased to hear Father O'Halloran's familiar voice asking him something or other about his work. In essaying to answer, he remembered that his reverence was a long way off, and therefore he shouted into the transmitter at the top of his voice.

"I don't understand you, Patrick," said the telephone.

Pat tried again, with no better success. On his third trial he came near splitting the telephone; but again came Father O'Halloran's voice, "I can't hear what you're saying, Patrick."

Patrick had by this time lost something of his patience, and as he stood gathering breath for a fourth blast, he couldn't refrain from soliloquizing in a low tone, "Ah, may the devil fly away wid the ould fool!" But Pat dropped the telephone like a hot potato and fell on his knees in dismay, when he heard Father O'Halloran's voice once again:

"Now I hear you perfectly, Patrick."

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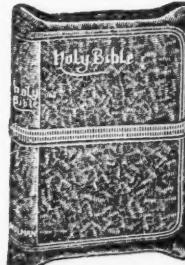
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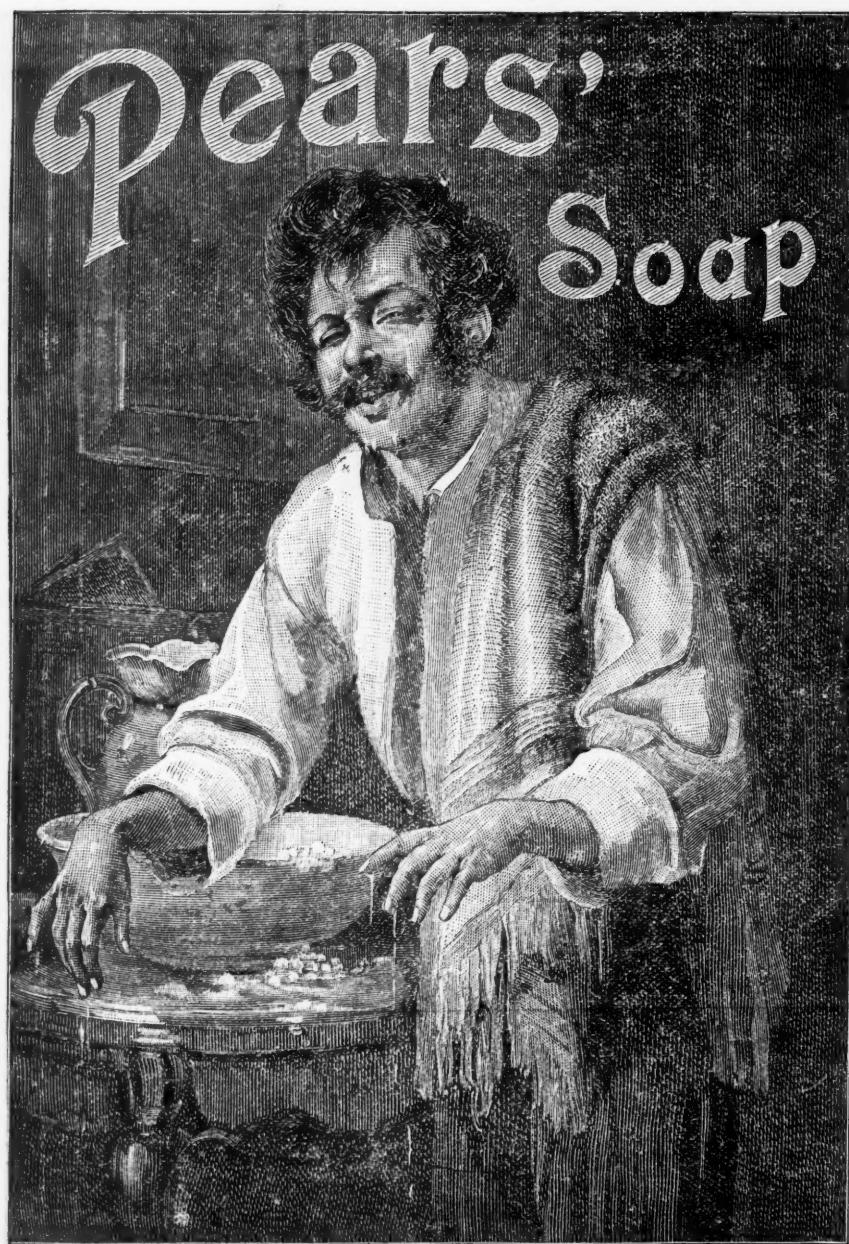
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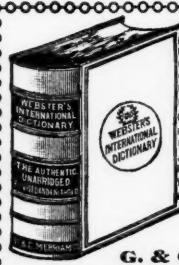
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